Indo-American Nuclear Treaty

†2747. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of recently concluded Indo-American Nuclear Treaty, America has urged India to discontinue its nuclear tests in future;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) Government's policy to impose ban on its nuclear tests in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) No treaty or agreement has so far been concluded with the United States of America on the resumption of civilian nuclear energy cooperation.

(c) Government is continuing its unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing.

Indian Labourers abandoned by their Employers

2748. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of plight of Indian labourers in various construction sites in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) abandoned by their employers without settling their long outstanding wages;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken, if any to protect the interest of Indian workers employed in construction and other enterprises on UAE and in other gulf countries from exploitation, abuse and violation of contractual obligations by their employers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Complaints of non-payments of salaries to Indian workers working in construction companies/industries are received from time to time. On receipt of such complaints, the Indian Mission/Post contacts the employer to solve the problem amicably. In cases where a solution is not reached, workers are advised to file complaints with the Labour Ministry of UAE.

(c) to (e) With a view to curb the exploitation of Indian workers going aborad for employment, it has been made mandatory *w.e.f.* 15.11.2003 for the Recruiting Agents to submit all the employment documents, viz., demand letter, power of attorney and specimen employment contract in original for obtaining emigration clearance. Further, in respect of vulnerable categories of workers, i.e., unskilled labour and housemaids/domestic workers; and in respect of nine countries, viz., Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Tanzania, Israel, Jordan, Sudan, Kuwait and Brunei, these employment documents are required to be attested by the concerned Indian Mission(s). In addition, our missions have with the help of Community welfare Association and other Community support groups been providing legal assistance/counseling to protect the interests of Indian Workers.

Questionnaire from UN Committee

2749. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any questionnaire was received from the United Nations Committee on counter terrorism following the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the USA enquiring about the measures being pursued in India to strengthen anti-terrorist measures;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the measures under implementation and contemplated by the Government especially in pursuance of the Security Council Resolution No. 1373;

(d) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs also coordinated in the formulation of the said questionnaire; and

(e) if so, the details in this regards?